

Mr. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY.—When will it be decided?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—I cannot say.

Mr. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY.—The Committee have recommended the provision of one school in every village with a population of 500 and over in the maidan and of 300 and over in the malnad. But are the Government aware that in the malnad there are a number of villages with only 2 houses? Will all of them have to go without any educational facilities?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Government are fully aware of all that. There is a rule that all the cess collected in any one district will have to be spent only in that district. If, it is possible, even smaller villages will be given schools. The collections will not be allowed to go to waste or remain idle.

Mr. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY.—Supposing the general population falls short of the minimum stipulated, but the number of children of school-going age is large enough, will schools be opened in all such cases?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—All those points will be considered on merits.

Mr. B. P. BASAPPA SETTY.—My suggestion is that the minimum should be further reduced in the case of the malnad.

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—The suggestion will be noted.

Mr. C. N. NARASINGA RAO.—The member was pleased to say that opinions addressed to the Committee would be welcome. Is there any objection to the Committee themselves inviting opinions? There are educationists outside the Representative Assembly who are quite competent to give views and opinions.

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—If the member looks into the list of members constituting the Committee, he will find that all important interests have been represented already. The Committee contains experts also.

Mr. C. N. NARASINGA RAO.—Will the question of scrapping the Elementary Education Act as at present in force also be within the scope of this Committee?

R.A.

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—I think so.

Mr. C. N. NARASINGA RAO.—Then, is it not a matter of sufficient importance to warrant consultation of opinions of educationists outside, and if so, what is the harm in inviting such opinions?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Even now there is nothing to prevent the Committee from doing so.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI.—So far as certain subjects are concerned, opinions have already been received during the past 10 years and it is after seeing them that we appointed the Committee. And certain subjects have been reserved for consultation with experts. For example, the Committee are going to consult experts on subjects like curriculum, courses of study, the Wardha scheme, etc. But the main question is that of immediate expansion. That need not wait for expert opinion.

Mr. T. SYED KHAJA PEERAN SAHIB.—Are not the Government aware, that when the levy of income-tax was first proposed, a definite promise was made that primary education would be provided on a free and compulsory basis throughout the State with the help of the revenue derived from that tax?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Notice

Mr. T. SYED KHAJA PEERAN SAHIB.—If the education cess is to be levied compulsorily in all the villages, will it not mean further hardship on the raiyats who are already passing through hard times?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—That aspect will be considered further.

Mr. KRISHNA RAO GANESHA RAO GURUJAR.—Will the question of introducing compulsory primary education without any more delay be considered by the Committee? Unless compulsion is introduced, not much benefit will accrue by merely opening schools.

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—That is one of the most important questions for consideration.

* Postal Facilities.

Q.—4. **Messrs. B. CHOODE GOWDA and M. B. GURULINGIAH** (Closepet Taluk);

T. THIMMARAYAPPA and Patel HONNASIDDAIYA (Magadi Taluk); T. MADIAH GOWDA and M. SIDDE GOWDA (Channapatna Taluk); C. N. NARA SINGA RAO (Bangalore City Municipality); K. NARAYANA SETTY (Magadi Municipality); S. KARIYAPPA and Gurukar VENKATARAMANE GOWDA (Kankanhalli Taluk); A. M. VENKATASAMIAH (Closepet Municipality); N. APPANNA REDDY (Bangalore Taluk); A. HANUMANTHARAYAPPA (Devanhalli Taluk); H. S. SURYANARAYANA RAO, K. T. BHASH YAM IYENGAR, B. M. MUNISWAMAPPA and V. VENKATESAIYA (Special Interests); Patel HANUME GOWDA (Doddballapur Taluk); B. MALLAPPA and A. M. CHANNAMARE GOWDA (Nelamangala Taluk); K. P. PARASIVIAH (Kankanhalli Municipality); S. SHARHABANNA (Anekal Taluk); Shampur PAPANNA and S. MUNI VENKATAPPA (Minorities).

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number of new post offices opened in the State for the past ten years;

(b) the number of post offices that Government intend opening during the current year;

(c) the number of villages, having a population of more than 1,000 which have no Post Offices;

(d) the number of village postmen for each taluk for the delivery of postal letters in villages;

(e) the number of times per week the village postman goes to villages for delivering letters?

A.—The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. Venkatanaranappa).—

(a) 34.

(b) 32 villages are being considered for opening Post Offices during 1938-39.

(c) 564.

(d) The village postmen are not employed according to taluks.

(e) Weekly, bi-weekly, or tri-weekly.

Mr. B. CHOODE GOWDA.—In the answer to (b), it is stated that post offices will be opened in 32 villages during the current year. How many of these villages have a population of 1,000 and more?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—I have not got that information here.

Mr. B. CHOODE GOWDA.—In answer to (c), it has been stated that there are

564 villages having a population of more than 1,000. Out of this, only 32 villages have been selected in one year. At this rate, how many years will it take for all the 564 villages to be provided with post offices?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—We cannot say that 32 will be the invariable figure for every year. That is the number recommended by the Government for the current year. Even out of that number how many villages will be actually selected by the Postal Department remains to be seen.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—When was this recommendation made to the Postal Department?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—About four months back.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Have the Government made out a case for providing all the 32 post offices during the current year? Sometimes the postal authorities do not accept the recommendations made to them.

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—When the department was working at a deficit, new offices were not being opened at all. But they have been opening new offices every year of late.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Are the Government aware that all the 564 villages are experiencing serious inconvenience for want of proper postal facilities?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—Certainly. But the principle governing the opening of new post offices is that each must be self-supporting and there should be a guarantee that any deficit will be made good by the local people.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Is it not necessary that postal facilities should be provided in all places in the State?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—But the question cannot be decided purely on a territorial basis.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Then, why not the Government revert to the old *anche* system?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—That question has been discussed in the past. That system will not suit present times.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Will the Government draw up a programme for

providing all villages with a population of 1,000 and more with post offices within a fixed period?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—That it is necessary to do so is known; but Government, can only do whatever lies in their power in the matter.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—How many village postmen are there in each taluk in the State?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—We have no information on the taluk-war basis. It must be obtained from the Postal Department. We can only tell you how many village postmen are attached to each post office.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Are the Government aware that in most cases there are not more than 2 village postmen for each taluk?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—They have not got that information. But they know this, that at least once a week every village is served by the village postman, while some villages are served twice and some others, even thrice a week.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—As against that, are the Government aware that some villages are not served even once a week, or a fortnight?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—Our information is that at least once a week every village is being served.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—How many villages are there which are served thrice in a week?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—We have called for that information and it can be furnished on receipt.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA.—Will the Government take steps to arrange for more frequent service in the villages?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—We shall try.

Mr. Gurukar VENKATARAMANE GOWDA.—In the Kankanahalli Taluk which contains 260 or 270 villages, there are only 3 village postmen. Is it ever possible for them to reach all the villages once a week?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—Government are as anxious as the members themselves to improve the postal facilities in the State.

Mr. Gurukar VENKATARAMANE
R.A.

GOWDA.—Has it come to the notice of Government that postmen, instead of delivering the letters to the addressees direct, are generally in the habit of sending them through third parties with a view to saving themselves the trouble of going from village to village?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—That is a matter for complaint to the postal authorities.

Mr. Gurukar VENKATARAMANE GOWDA.—Are the Government aware that village postmen have been, adopting this device mainly because of the long distances which they are expected to cover? The Kankanahalli taluk has jurisdiction over nearly 40 square miles, east to west, and about the same area north to south. How can 3 postmen who are expected to walk from village to village reach every village at least once a week? Sometimes important business letters of a most confidential nature are sent to the addressees by the postman through any man that he comes across on the way. The interests of traders are suffering on account of such irregularities.

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—The question of improving the existing postal facilities in the State is constantly receiving attention.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH.—Are the post offices located in rented buildings or in departmental buildings?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—Notice.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH.—Is it the object of the Postal Department mainly to earn profits or to render service to the public?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—It is both.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH.—Which of the two considerations weighs more with them?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH.—What are all the considerations on which the Deputy Commissioner has recommended 32 villages for being provided with Post Offices during the current year?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—They are reported to be important villages from various points of view, such

as population, trade, facility of communications, etc.

Mr. K. RAMASESHA SASTRY.—Are the Government aware that hours of clearance of mails have not in many cases been fixed suitably to the convenience of the public?

Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA.—The member may take such cases to the notice of the postal authorities.

Mr. K. L. NANJAPPA NADIG.—Out of the 32 villages referred to in (b), how many belong to the Mysore District?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—We have not got those details here at the moment.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS—*contd.*

II. General Principles of the Bill to amend the Village Panchayat Act—*concl'd.*

The **PRESIDENT** observed that though the amendment proposed in the bill related to a small matter, yet from the discussions that had so far taken place, the members seemed to have taken an alarming view of it. He therefore appealed to the House to recognize that the principle involved in the bill had been conceived in the best interests of the village panchayats themselves.

Mr. P. SITHARAMIAH replied that though it might seem to be a small matter, the principle underlying the proposed amendment was detrimental to the growth of village panchayats for the following reasons: The institution of village panchayats was intended to train people in the art of self-government. As the power of supersession vested in Government was meant to tide over deadlocks, it had to be used only very rarely. That such occasions should be rare was the common object of both the people as well as the Government. Such being the case, he thought that there ought not to be any occasion for the Government to extend the term of supersession at all.

Even as regards the possibility of deadlocks, he said that whenever the Government constituted a panchayat, they would have to watch its working for at least one year before coming to a decision as to whether its management

was efficient or otherwise. If the management was efficient, there would be no question of supersession at all. And in case the management was so bad as to call for supersession, it would take about 6 months for the authorities to make the necessary reports and obtain orders of supersession passed against the panchayat. In the meanwhile, one-half or more of the term of the panchayat would have been over. If an order of supersession were passed at this stage, it could remain in force only for a year or 1½ years. With this period, the term of the panchayat would be over and a new panchayat would have to be constituted thereafter. Thus, there would be no necessity at all for extending the term of supersession, and hence the power sought under the proposed amendment was, in his opinion, altogether unnecessary.

The **SECOND MEMBER** (Rajamantra-pravinā N. Madhava Rau) explained that this bill had nothing to do with the term of any particular panchayat.

Mr. SITHARAMIAH contended that the order of supersession could apply only to the panchayat as constituted at the time of making the order and not to the panchayat after it was reconstituted. Otherwise, the orders extending the period of supersession would have the effect of virtually abolishing the panchayat. He doubted whether the Government could abolish a panchayat once for all like that, with the powers they possessed under the Act as at present in force. Personally he felt that if a deadlock was created, the Government might pass an order of supersession and if matters were not likely to improve, they might as well order a fresh election. Then the voters would consider the circumstances and elect more suitable men.

Generally speaking, the interest evinced by the members of a panchayat was in direct proportion to that evinced by the local officers. If in some cases, the members fell short of expectations; it was up to the officers to make them improve. If such an attitude was adopted, he had no doubt that the necessity for the proposed amendment would never arise. After all, the most important item of work was the collection of